

## Finalists for the 2015 Vic Hellard Jr. Award

*The 2015 Vic Hellard Jr. Award will honor a nonpartisan Legislative Research Commission staff member who exemplifies high standards in service to the Kentucky General Assembly. The award is named in memory and recognition of longtime LRC Director Vic Hellard Jr., who was a champion of legislative independence and played an instrumental role in the modernization of the legislative institution and nonpartisan staffing.*



**Jenny Bannister** has proven invaluable both professionally and personally to LRC staff, legislators and members of the public during her distinguished tenure. Currently serving as Assistant Budget Director, she has also served Legislative Fiscal Analyst and as Interim Budget Director for a portion of 2015. Bannister is “a remarkable individual that many agencies respect because they know that Jenny understands the complexities of all branches of government” according to her nominating letter. Aside from her professional expertise, she is also highly valued for her personal support of those around her. “Always a concerned individual,” the nominating letter continues, “Jenny has proven that she will take time from her busy schedule to share the work and plight of others. ... Certainly, the

duties associated with working at the LRC demand a special type of person and few could compete with the likes of Jenny. Her selflessness permeates throughout the agency regardless of whether or not she is identified as the source.”

**Sally Everman** continues to prove herself to be an irreplaceable link between legislators, LRC staff and citizens from around the Commonwealth. Along with coordinating constituent surveys that help lawmakers gauge opinions and shape policy, Everman has taken on leadership roles that connect the Capitol to Kentuckians both young and old. For several years, she was one of the chief organizers of the Special Advisory Commission of Senior Citizens, helping coordinate the group’s annual two-day gathering at the Capitol which provided lawmakers with input on senior issues. Everman has also served in various managing roles for the NCSL America’s Legislators Back to School Program since its inception, helping educate schoolchildren about the legislative process. She does it all with



grace. “We dare say that one would be challenged to identify an LRC staff person who has done more to boost the public’s appreciation for and confidence in LRC staff than Sally Everman,” reads her nominating letter. “Sally is the bright spot in many people’s day at LRC with a long line of legislators, staff, lobbyists and executive branch agency personnel often stopping into her office just to say hi.”



**Sheila Mason** served many roles in her long career with the LRC even before her current tenure as Legislative Intern Coordinator and Legislative Record Compiler. Mason joined the LRC in 1980 as a legislative analyst and has since served as a Committee Staff Administrator and Assistant Director. As a Legislative Record Compiler, she has worked long hours to ensure that citizens and legislators all have accessible and accurate accounts of General Assembly actions. Mason has served as Legislative Intern Coordinator since 2002, helping hundreds of interns go into the world as ambassadors for the work of the General Assembly, public service and the Commonwealth. Mason has been honored by the National Conference of State Legislatures for her tireless work, earning its 2005 Legislative Staff

Achievement Award. She inspires interns and LRC staff every day, according to her nominating letter: “She embodies the effect the the political process has on each citizen’s life and personifies the importance of active involvement in participatory democracy.”